

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

Yes. This has been a general phenomenon.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

277. Whether the scale of salary paid to the Government servants is almost the same as it was in the olden days?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

No. It has been improved from time to time, as a comparison of the budget statements of 1094 and 1101 will testify.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

278. (a) Whether the Government are aware that there is acute distress prevailing among the low-paid servants of the Government, i. e., among officers drawing a salary of Rs. 60 and below?

(b) Whether there have been petitions after petitions from those affected, praying for such increase in their salaries, as to make both ends meet? If so, whether a thorough enquiry was made about it, and necessary remedies provided for by the Government? If not, why?

(c) Whether it is not a fact that several Heads of Departments themselves have realised this almost destitute state of their subordinates under their employ, on account of scanty salary now paid by the Government, and strongly recommended to the Government for increase, and submitted schemes long ago for the same?

(d) If so, what action has been taken by the Government thereon, and if not, why?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

(a) Yes. Government are aware of a certain amount of distress among the menials and low-paid clerks.

(b) There have been occasional representations. The Government considered the question, and their conclusions are contained in the following extract from the D. P., C. No. 273/99, dated 10th December 1923 (*Land Revenue*).

"The question of introducing the time scale among clerks and menials of the Revenue Department equally with those of other departments is too wide a subject to be taken up for consideration for the present, and must lie over until the material prospects of the State are considerably improved."

(c) There have been representations.

(d) Vide answer to (b) above. Relief has, however, been afforded in certain cases.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

279. Whether there have not been defalcations and misappropriations in the several departments in the State; especially during the last four or five years, and whether the Government have not discovered that the root cause for these can be traced to the too inadequate salary paid by the Government?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

There have been instances; but Government doubt whether inadequate salary can be an inducement to them any more than a fat salary can be a guarantee against them.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

280. Do the Government know that the Madras Government, after very elaborate enquiries revised their scale of salary, in regard to the low-paid servants since the last four or five years?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

It appears they have.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

281. Do not the Government recognise that the economic and other conditions in the Cochin State are practically the same as in the Malabar District of the Madras Presidency?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

May be.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

282. Do not the Government think that this unnatural situation in our State is one that calls for immediate steps being taken, and the position of both the Government and the now low-paid staff placed on an enduring basis?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

Not that the Government are unsympathetic. It is a question of funds.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

283. Will the Government follow the standard of salary fixed in the Madras Presidency, and if not, why not?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

Government cannot say one way or the other without examining what that standard will cost here.

Officers and chances for promotion.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

284. Are the Government aware that under the existing system a large number of officers get no chance for promotion,